

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 8, 2015

Agenda Item: Toston Fishing Access Site – Land Disposal & MDT HWY 287 Bridge Realignment

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

Toston Fishing Access Site (FAS) is located along the Missouri River near Toston on Montana Highway 287 in Broadwater County. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is planning the realignment of the Highway 287 bridge that crosses the Missouri River at Toston. This realignment will encroach upon the Toston FAS with fill material covering about 1.1 acres of the site. The existing road to the FAS will be abandoned; MDT will construct a new access road about one-half mile to the south. MDT will also compensate FWP for the fair market value of the lost land. An appraisal will establish its value. Payment for the land would be deposited in FWP's real property trust account, a permanent account that generates funds for FWP land management activities.

Public Involvement Process & Results

With Commission approval, an environmental assessment (EA) would be prepared by FWP, including public comment period, as required for the disposal of any portion of the Toston FAS property and construction of the new access road. MDT will prepare a separate EA for the Highway 287 bridge construction and realignment.

Alternatives and Analysis

Results will depend on outcomes of the EA.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends that an EA be completed for construction of a new access road and disposal of approximately 1.1 acres of the Toston FAS, and made available for public comment.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission approve FWP's proposal to initiate an Environmental Assessment and associated public comment for the disposal of a 1.1-acre portion of the Toston FAS as required for the MDT Montana Highway 287 bridge realignment project.